GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1480
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2002
TCIL
PRAKASH V. PATIL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL) had taken up a project of Ghana Telecom;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the project has been completed within the stipulated period;

(d) if so, whether TCIL have received full payment of the project; and

(e) if not, the action taken to recover the payment?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI S MAHAJAN)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Details are at Annexure-I.

(c) First two contracts were completed ahead of schedule. The deadline for the third project is not yet over.

(d) Full payment has been received for the first two projects. For the third project approximately Rs. 120.32 crores is pending.

(e) Action taken by TCIL for recovery of the dues is given in Annexure-II.

ANNEXURE-I

The details of the contracts awarded to TCIL by Ghana Telecom on the basis of Global Tenders are as follows:

(i) In 19993, the US$ 22 Million project (approximately Rs. 93.4 Crores) was awarded for installing customer access network in different part of Ghana. This project was funded by overseas Economic Co-operation Funding (OECF) of Japan.

(ii) In 1997, the US$ 12 Million (approximately 57.8 Crores) Project was awarded for installation of customer access network in Dansoman, a large, new housing colony in Accra, Ghana`s capital. This project was funded by Ghana Telecom from its own internal resources.

(iii) In 1998, the US$ 50 Million (approximately Rs. 235 Crores) contract was awarded for part of a larger project valued at US$ 200 Million for installing customer access networks in different parts of Ghana. TCII and two other contractors, namely, Samsung and GAMAL (A Joint Venture of Ghana and Malaysia) were awarded contracts for US$ 50 Million eachThe balance unawarded value of the contract was to be awarded later to the best performing contractor.

ANNEXURE-II

Action taken by TCIL for recovery of the dues include the following steps:

(i) Apart from regular follow up by the Project Office in Ghana, the CMD,Directors and Executive Directors, TCIL Headquarters have impressed upon Ghana Telecom for release of money and also good officers of Minister and Deputy Minister of Communication in Ghana have also been used for accelerating payment to TCIL.

(ii) No further indents for execution have been taken up after April, 2001.

(iii) Though the contract provided for a deferred payment option as also a cash payment option, Ghana Telecom had opted for cash payment option under dues have accumulated. Efforts have been made by TCIL to impress on Ghana Telecom and Government of Ghana to regularize the dues under the deferred payment basis carrying interest with installments of repayment finalized.

(iv) Total billed amount till 30th June, 2002 is about US$ 45 million (Rs. 220 Crores Approx.) while the outstanding on date is US$ 25.6 million (Rs. 120.32 crore Approx) the outstanding amount realized from Ghana Telecom since December 2001 till date is about US$ 7 million (Rs. 34 crore approx.). The Minister of Communications of Ghana has confirmed to TCIL through a letter in May, 2002 that US$ 1 million or equivalent shall be paid each month and thus the enhanced realization has commenced.